S/N: 10/655,983 Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2006

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, at line 28 as shown below:

Figures 11a-11c illustrate three alternative bottom space cross-sections for gundrills designed to cut respetively respectively typical, soft and brittle materials;

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, at line 9 as shown below:

The flow of drilling fluid through relief passage 278 ultimately will rejoin the drilling fluid flowing through the internal fluid passageway defined between the shank flute 246 and the wall of the hole being drilled. Relief passage 278 will preferably connect to the shank flute 246 by way of the crossover port 236 illustrated in Figures 32, 34 and 36. The crossover port 236 is configured to introduce a jet of drilling fluid into the tubular shank passageway at an angle which assists the drilling fluid in the entrained chips to exit the hole being drilled. The flow of drilling fluid through the crossover port 236 is illustrated by the directional flow arrows in Figures 34-36. Figure 35 illustrates an alternative orifice 284 having a circular cross-section as opposed to the kidney-shaped cross-section shown previously. In the case of a circular cross-section orifice located within the center of the inner relief face 226 illustrated, the addition of the localized relief passage 278 causes drilling fluid to flow immediately behind the primary cutting and secondary cutting edges 266 and 268, which form the drill cutting The addition of localized relief passageway 278 significantly reduces the point 264. temperature of these cutting surfaces and dramatically increases tool life. The flow of drilling fluid through the localized relief passage 278 also serves to minimize material buildup on the peripheral rake edge 274, which improves the surface quality of the hole being drilled and helps to minimizes minimize the likelihood of chip accumulation in the internal fluid passage 252.